



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

artNews LETTER



Photo by Shyree Mezick for DCCAH

MARCH 2009



DC COMMISSION ON
THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

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Washington D.C. 20009
(202) 724-5613 (202) 724-4493 TTY/TDD
www.dcartarts.dc.gov



ADRIAN M. FENTY, MAYOR
District of Columbia

IT TAKES A LIFETIME TO CREATE A MASTERPIECE

Life Pieces to Masterpieces provides opportunities for African-American males (ages 3 to 21) living in Washington, DC's low-income and public housing communities east of the Anacostia River to activate their innate creative abilities. This program is helping young people turn their challenges into possibilities through artistic expression. "Young males living east of the Anacostia River often grow up without fathers, in families plagued by poverty and substance abuse. But at Life Pieces to Masterpieces, "apprentices" use paint, storytelling, rap, and poetry to make something of great beauty out of their lives." The group takes its name from the unique art its members collectively create – painting canvas, cutting it into shapes, and sewing the pieces together to tell real life stories.

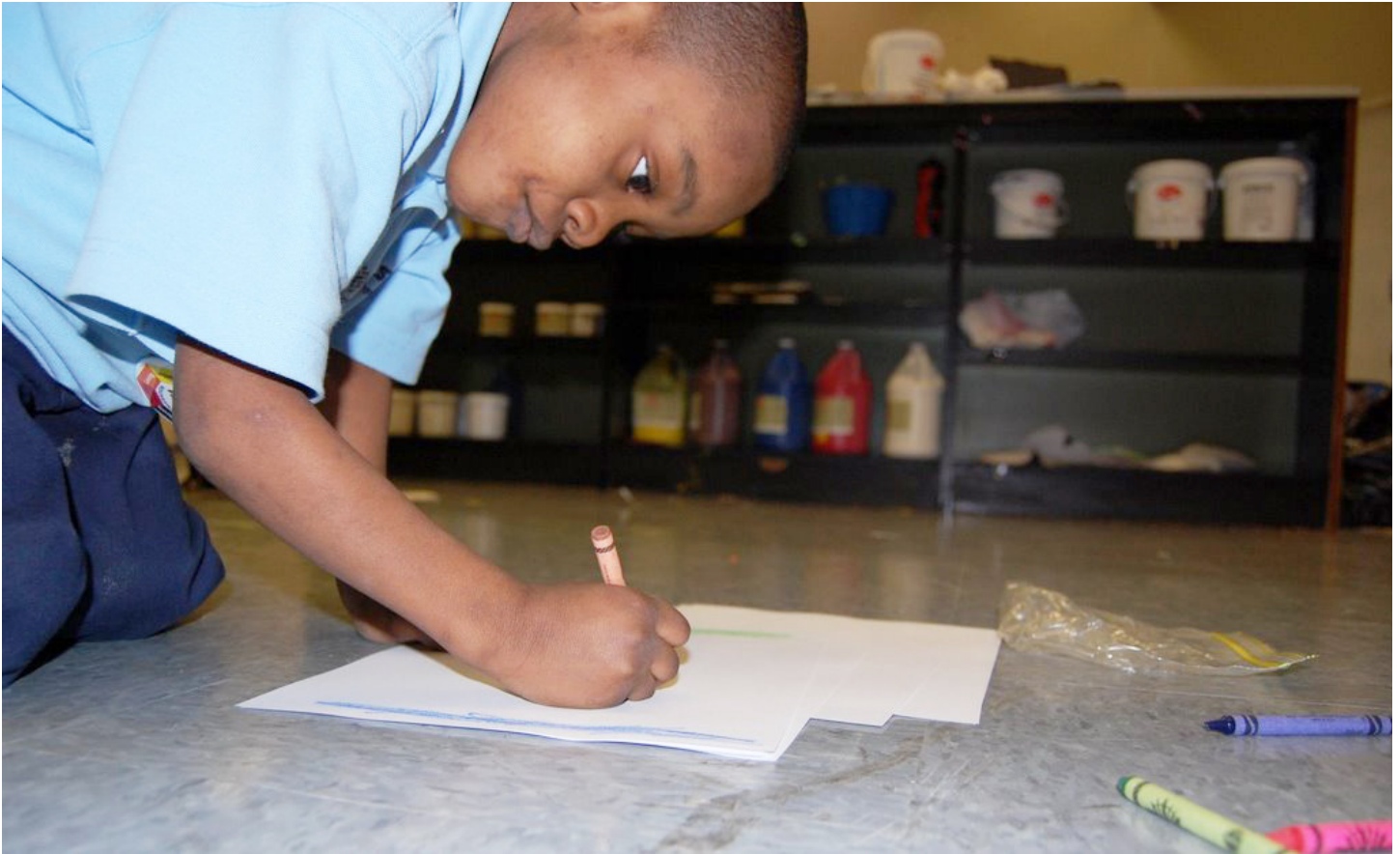


Photo by Shyree Mezick for DCCA

VIDEO IN FOCUS

Life Pieces to Masterpieces has created some 1,000 works of art, as well as producing seven high school students who were awarded \$50,000 to attend college through the Bill & Melinda Gates Scholarship. Life Pieces to Masterpieces mission is to provide opportunities to discover and activate the innate and creative abilities of the members to change life challenges into possibilities. They received their first grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities nearly ten years ago, including an UPSTART grant which will be profiled in April's Newsletter. To learn more about Life Pieces to Masterpieces visit: lifepieces.org/



[View the video to see more!](#)

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

See our current grant opportunities below and for up-to-the-minute postings go to www.dccarts.dc.gov!

ARTS TEACHER FELLOWSHIPS

Teachers-- Get funding for professional development opportunities across the country (and beyond)!

ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS

Schools-- Get funding to bring hip-hop poets, glass artisans and ballet dancers to teach your students new art forms.

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Friday, April 10, 2009, 7pm

CONTACT:

Catherine.Cleary@dc.gov



FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTS MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Get your body movin'! Do you know someone who incorporates their ethnic heritage, language, or occupation into their art? Let them know DCCAH is currently accepting applications for the Folk and Traditional Arts Mini-Grant Program. This Mini-Grant offers funds ranging from \$500 - \$1,000 to individuals and arts organizations in the District of Columbia practicing folk and traditional arts. Folk and Traditional Arts Mini-Grant Program encourages and supports activities which are included in the following genres: music, dance, crafts, and oral expression. This year special emphasis will be placed on Go-Go music.

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 7pm

CONTACT:

Ebony.Blanks@dc.gov



Photo by Ryan Holloway for DCCAH

WORKSHOP WEDNESDAYS!!!

Free assistance is available for preparation of DCCAH Grants. Let us help you create the best possible application while learning about all of our grant opportunities.

Wednesday, April 8	Commission Office	1371 Harvard Street, NW	12pm- 1:30pm
Wednesday, April 22	Honfleur Art Gallery	1241 Good Hope Road, SE	6pm - 7:30pm
Wednesday, May 6	Commission Office	1371 Harvard Street, NW	12pm- 1:30pm
Wednesday, May 20	Life Pieces To Masterpieces	603 50th Street, NE	6pm - 7:30pm
Wednesday, June 3	Commission Office	1371 Harvard Street, NW	12pm- 1:30pm
Wednesday, June 17	Artomatic Gallery	55 M Street, SE	6pm - 7:30pm
Wednesday, July 1	Commission Office	1371 Harvard Street, NW	12pm- 1:30pm
Wednesday, July 15	Honfleur Art Gallery	1241 Good Hope Road, SE	6pm - 7:30pm
Wednesday, August 12	Commission Office	1371 Harvard Street, NW	12pm- 1:30pm

CALL TO ARTISTS

26TH ANNUAL LARRY NEAL WRITERS COMPETITION

Do you have the writer's edge? Since 1981, the DCCAH has recognized and celebrated the literary accomplishments of District of Columbia resident writers through the Larry Neal Writers' Competition. Cash awards and prizes are given to adults ages 19 and up for artistic excellence in writing in three categories: poetry, short story and dramatic writing, and to youth (ages 8-12) and teens (ages 13-18) in three categories: poetry, short story and essay.

SPECIAL INITIATIVE FOR 2009: The Big Read-DC Special Recognition Award for Creative Expression. As part of DC's 2009 Big Read celebration of Carson McCuller's *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, a special prize will be given in each age group to writers who compose an essay on the theme of courage. In this work, McCuller exposes the limitations, prejudices, and frustrations of her community. Writers are asked to consider, in an essay, the ways in which they exhibit courage in their own writing.

Larry Neal (1937-1981) was a poet, essayist, editor, playwright, critic, filmmaker, folklorist, and one of the Black Arts movement's spiritual journeymen. He served as Executive Director of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities from 1976-1979.

The 2009 deadline for submitting works is Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 7:00 pm.



LARRY NEAL WRITERS' AWARDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOTOBAMA WEEK PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The Newseum and FotoWeek DC offers up a photo contest for amateurs and professionals alike. The deadline is just around the corner, but photographers still have time to click, capture and enter this unique competition; the deadline is **Sunday, March 15, 2009**, so photogs, dust off those cameras! The guidelines of FotoBama Week Photography Contest are that participants encapsulate **President Barack Obama's** campaign, election and inauguration in a photo. 100 winning images will be selected and will also be exhibited at the Newseum this summer and published in a limited edition book that will be sponsored by FotoWeek DC. Cash prizes totaling \$5,000 will also be distributed. All photo submissions will be displayed at www.fotoweekdc.org along with a People's Choice section. It is said that a picture can say a thousand words; two particular words that have come to the minds of many Americans during Obama's victory can be "hope" and "change."
www.fotoweekdc.org



FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAKE ART POSSIBLE

As a result of negotiations between the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and the U.S. Congress, arts organizations nation-wide will receive a much-needed financial aid award package. When President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17, he ensured that the vital contributions of those working in the arts would not go unsupported. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will distribute \$50,000,000 to help save arts-related jobs. Non-profit arts organizations in Washington, DC will be able to apply directly to the NEA and to DCCAH for funds to support salaries for positions that are in jeopardy or that have been eliminated to the current economic climate. For more information on assistance in supporting our skilled, creative and vibrant workforce, please visit <http://www.arts.gov/recovery/index.html>

CAPITAL REGION TOURING PROGRAM

- Provides funding for DC presenters and venues to book performing artists included on the Touring Artist Roster of the Maryland State Arts Council
- Enhances artists' marketability beyond their home states
- Promotes artistic exchange between Washington, DC and Maryland
- Program guidelines and the MSAC Touring Artist Roster are available online under "Agency News" at www.dcarts.dc.gov and professional development



EVENTS

24TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS HONORS D.C. ARTS COMMUNITY - VISIONARY AWARDEE: SEPTIME WEBRE AND JOY ZIMMERMAN

On Monday, March 23, 2009 at 6pm join the **Honorable Adrian Fenty** and **First Lady Michelle Fenty** for the **24th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards at The Kennedy Center Concert Hall**. Hosted by **ABC7/WJLA News Anchor Cyneé Simpson** with performance by special guest performance by Grammy Award Nominee and Washingtonian **Raheem DeVaughn** we will be celebrating arts innovators and recognizing outstanding achievement in the following categories: Artistic Discipline, Emerging Artists, Service to the Arts, Innovation in the Arts, Excellence in Teaching - Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Language Arts. **This event is free and open to the public.**



SLAM! POETRY OUT LOUD MAKES NOISE!



And the winner is.....**Wesley Mann**, a senior at St. Anselm's Abbey School! District youth inspired by the transformational language of poetry and encouraged by instruction from their teachers have been competed the *Poetry Out Loud State Recitation* ceremony on Monday, February 23 at the **Woolly Mammoth Theatre**. The evening, introduced by District of Columbia Public Schools **Chancellor Michelle Rhee**, showcased winners from 11 schools. Washingtonians Princess of Controversy, The Artist, DJ Chris Styles along with Poets Elizabeth Acevedo and Omékongo Dibinga complemented the night. **Poetry Out Loud** invites the oral tradition of spoken word and theater into the classroom and encourages public speaking skills and memorization among high school students. Schools with students participating in the State finals, included: **Duke Ellington School of the Arts, SEED Public Charter School, St. Anselm's Abbey School, Friendship Collegiate Academy, Bell Multicultural Columbia Heights Campus, Washington Latin Public Charter School, Wilson Senior High School, Banneker High School,**

Coolidge High School, Hyde Leadership Public Charter School and Young America Works Public Charter School. The winner received \$200 and a \$500 stipend goes to the student's school for the purchase of poetry books. The Runner-up, Jordan Seace, Senior at Duke Ellington School of Arts received \$100 and his school will receive \$200 for the purchase of poetry books. A total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends will be awarded at the **Poetry Out Loud National Finals**, with a \$20,000 college scholarship award for the National Champion. Mann, will advance to the national competition also held in Washington, DC **April 26 – 28, 2009.** www.poetryoutloud.org



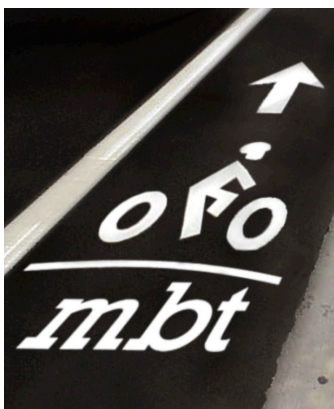
Photos by Ryan Holloway for DCCAH



MBT logo by Robert Kent Wilson © 2008

METROPOLITAN BRANCH TRAIL

DCCA in collaboration with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the surrounding communities initiated a Call to Artists in **May 2008** to commission an artist to create a trail identity for the Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT). Awardee, Robert Kent Wilson has attended countless community meetings, biked the trail several times and attended design development meetings to create a comprehensive artistic and graphic plan for the MBT. The MBT is an eight mile multi-use trail that runs from Silver Spring, Maryland to Union Station in the District of Columbia. Both aesthetically pleasing and functional, it connects to the Capital Crescent Trail, the Anacostia Tributaries Trail System and the National Mall and will be part of the East Coast Greenway. The MBT is becoming an important recreation and transportation route that will provide direct access to seven of Metro's Red Line stations.



For more information regarding the history and developments of the trail refer to www.metbranchtrail.com



NEW BEGINNINGS FOR YOUTH COMMITTED FACILITY

DCCA in collaboration with Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) have selected five semifinalists to create a site-specific design proposal for the mural wall at a new DYRS facility: Dr. Anne Ashmore-Hudson, Dean Bernard Richardson, Ms. LaNilta Taylor, Ms. Carolyn Stennett, Ms. Sheila Crider, Ms. Ida Stewart and Mr. Steven J. The aforementioned artists were selected from a pool of 91 applicants. The goal of the project is to encourage youth through modern artistry created by local painters. The selected artist(s) will be required to engage youth in the project.

PUBLIC ART COMING TO ADAMS MORGAN

Esteemed panelists: **Dr. Anne Ashmore-Hudson, Ms. Rhona Friedman, JD., Mr. Marvin Bowser, Mr. Josh Gibson, Ms. Mindy Moretti, Mr. Ernesto Giron, Mr. Aneikan Udofia, Mr. Cesar Maxit and Mr. Lonny Bradley** have carefully selected five semi-finalists from a pool of 148 applicants to create a site-specific design proposal for the work of art to be installed at the corner of 18th and Columbia Road, NW, Washington DC. Semi-finalists: Robert Cole (DC), Cheryl Levin and Robert Phillips (PA), Michael Milbourne (DC), Owen Morrel (NY), and James Simon (PA) have to be asked to create a distinctive art piece that communicates the rich history and current character of the Adams Morgan surrounding community and commercial district. The finalist will be selected in the Spring.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE - PUBLIC ART COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE A HUGE SUCCESS!

DCCA Staff and Board of Directors would like to thank the local community for attending our Open House meeting at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library on February 10th. There were over 100 people in attendance, who offered their insightful visions and aspirations. The Open House meeting is intended to introduce the community to the Public Art Master Planning process in DC. We appreciate community feedback on current proposed directions and trajectories! Some aspirations are:

- Introducing fresh and creative thinking to the character of the public art realm
- Giving new life to the city's traditions of aesthetic excellence
- Enriching people's experience as they move about the city in their daily lives

Some of the notable trajectories are:

- Art that Advances the City's Green Agenda
- Art in Places That Shape Community Life
- Art that frames the Creative Economy

If you were unable to attend the meeting, please take a moment to fill out our survey located at www.dcarts.dc.gov

If you have any questions or suggestions on the Master Planning Process or about DC Creates Public Art contact, Deirdre.Ehlen@dc.gov or call 202-724-5613.

MATTERS OF THE "HeArt" - TOUR THE WILSON BUILDING

At 12 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 25, 2009** the public is invited to the Wilson Building for a guided tour through the City Hall public art collection that highlights women artists in the permanent display on floors 1-5 of the Wilson building. The tour will be led by **DCCA Art Bank Coordinator, Beth Baldwin**. The tour will take about 70 minutes. The City Hall Collection, "HeArt of the City", has been assembled over the past two years under the sponsorship of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. It is the richest and largest permanent exhibition of the work of local artists in the city, featuring a broad range of work, including internationally known artists such as Alma Thomas, Renee Stout, Maggie Michael and most local of the artists of significance. The collection truly serves as a window into the scope of creative talent and energy that DC offers today, all styles and media.

Tours are offered quarterly and by request.

The tour is free, however, space is limited. Please RSVP to **beth.baldwin@dc.gov** with the number in your party. Meet at the receptionist's desk on the first floor near the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance - the building is located at 1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW. ID is required to enter the building.

Upcoming dates:

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Wednesday, September 30, 2009



"Untitled (Rainbow)", Watercolor on paper © 1970 by Alma Woosley Thomas



"Boa Morte Sisterhood", Oil on Canvas 24" X 35" © 2003 by Kevin Holder



IN THE WORDS OF THE ARTIST - BASEBALL STADIUM

Considering the recent excitement surrounding the new suspended art installment displayed in the Nationals Baseball stadium, it's only appropriate to acknowledge all of the artists involved. Local artist, Walter Kravitz, had this to say about his featured installation entitled, *The Ball Game*, "Players spring after fly balls, make spectacular leaping catches, stop ground balls which are seemingly out of reach and hit pitched balls with their bats that travel faster than many cars." Kravitz's piece is comprised of 4 spinning mobiles and other hand-painted elements; it rotates to the tune of, "Take me Out to the Ballgame," by Jack Norworth (1908).

Josh Gibson © 2008

by Omri Amrany, Commissioned by the
DC Creates Public Art Program, DCCA

PARTNERSHIPS

The collaborative efforts between DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and each of our partners is to actively strive to create and maintain relationships with artists, arts educators and their resources. Together, we are working to make art relevant to working artists and their communities.

ARTOMATIC

Provides a forum for artists to convene, perform and exhibit, strengthening Washington's arts community. This year attend Artomatic, the Event from May 29 - July 5, 2009 at 55 M Street, SE.

George Koch, Chair

1629 K Street, NW Suite 300

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 607-0879

Web: www.artomatic.org

Email: Info@artomatic.org

CULTURECAPITAL.COM

CultureCapital.com connects you to Greater Washington DC's thriving arts and culture community. This virtual arts marketplace provides comprehensive information and reliable ticket-purchase options for shows, performances, classes and exhibitions offered by more than 300 regional arts organizations and cultural institutions, making it the region's richest and most diverse collection of arts and culture activities.

Eileen Rappoport, Vice President Operations Cultural

Alliance of Greater Washington

1436 U Street NW, Suite 103

Washington, DC 20009

Phone (202) 638-2406

Web: www.culturecapital.com

Email: info@culturalcapital.com

DC ARTS & HUMANITIES EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

The DC Collaborative believes that the arts—inclusive of music, visual arts, theater, dance, and literary arts—are central to the education of every student.

La'Tasha Banks, Program Coordinator

1835 14th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20009

Phone (202) 204-7750

Web: www.dccollaborative.org

Email: latasha@dccollaborative.org

HUMANITIES COUNCIL OF WASHINGTON, DC

The Humanities Council of Washington, DC is a private, non-profit organization that funds and conducts humanities-based cultural and educational programs for Washingtonians in every ward. It is not a Federal or a District agency.

Lisa Alfred, Deputy Director

925 U Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

Phone (202) 387-8391

Web: www.wdchumanities.org

Email: lalfred@wdchumanities.org

WASHINGTON AREA LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS (WALA)

WALA provides education, advocacy and volunteer legal services through workshops and seminars, legal clinics for artists and arts organizations, and pro-bono referral services.

901 New York Avenue, NW

Suite P1

Washington, DC 20001-4413

Phone (202) 289-4440

Web: www.thewala.org

WASHINGTON POSTPOINTS

The DCCAH is proud to have the Washington PostPoints as a partner. To find out more about the Washington Post's commitment to the community through PostPoints Partnerships, promotional advertising and auction items please visit www.washpost.com/community



DC COMMISSION ON
THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

*Below is a quick reference sheet of available grants opportunities.
For comprehensive information go to www.dccarts@dc.gov*

DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Programs	Description	Grant Amounts
City Arts Projects	Encourages the growth of quality arts activities throughout the city, supports local artists, and makes arts experiences accessible to District residents.	\$1,000 - \$5,000
Arts Education Projects	Provides training and in-depth exploration of artistic disciplines to students from pre-K through 12th grades.	\$1,000 - \$5,000
Folk & Traditional Arts Program	Provides funding for artists and arts organizations practicing or supporting folk traditions.	\$500 - \$1,000
Hip Hop Community Arts	Funds programs that encourage the growth of quality Hip Hop arts activities.	\$1,000 - \$2,500
Elders Learning Through The Arts	Funds artists and arts organizations that provide training and in-depth exploration of artistic disciplines to seniors.	\$500 - \$5,000
Small Projects Program	Provides funds to individual artists and arts organizations for small-scale arts projects with budgets under \$4,000.	\$2,000
Artist Fellowship Program (Performing Arts)	Provides support for individual artists who make a significant contribution to the arts.	\$5,000
Arts Teacher Fellowships (DC Public and Charter School teachers only)	Funds DC Public Schools and public charter schools to support the development and implementation of innovative teaching strategies according to DCPS Arts Content Standards.	Up to \$2,500
Young Artist Program	Funds young artists between the ages of 18 to 30 years old.	Category 1: up to \$2,500 Category 2: up to \$3,500
Public Art Building Communities Grants	Funds individuals and nonprofit organizations for the creation and installation of permanent public art projects with a life span of at least five years.	\$1,000 - \$10,000
DC Creates Public Art	Funds the commission or purchase of works of high quality art located in public places throughout the District, including District government buildings, schools, libraries, parks, hospitals and any other sites under direct jurisdiction and stewardship of the District.	Varies by initiative



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Programs	Description	Grant Amounts
Grants-In-Aid	Funds general operating expenses and financial assistance to nonprofit arts organizations.	\$3,000 - \$30,000
City Arts Projects	Encourages the growth of quality arts activities throughout the city, supports local artists, and makes arts experiences accessible to District residents.	\$1,000 - \$30,000
Arts Education Projects	Provides training and in-depth exploration of artistic disciplines to students from pre-K through 12th grades.	\$1,000 - \$30,000
Festivals DC	Funds arts festivals or festivals with significant arts components that: encourage growth and promote awareness of quality arts activities throughout the city, support local artists, stimulate economic benefits to the community, promote a sense of community identity, and make arts experiences accessible to District residents and visitors.	\$1,000 - \$30,000
East of the River Arts Program *	Funds targeted at Wards 7 and 8.	Category 1: up to \$5,000 Category 2: up to \$20,000
DC UPSTART Program *	Capacity-building program for small to mid-size arts organizations.	Cohort A up to \$100,000 Cohort B up to \$30,000
Folk & Traditional Arts Program	Provides funding for artists and arts organizations practicing or supporting folk traditions.	\$500 - \$1,000
Hip Hop Community Arts	Funds programs that encourage the growth of quality Hip Hop arts activities.	\$1,000 - \$5,000
Elders Learning Through The Arts	Funds artists and arts organizations that provide training and in-depth exploration of artistic disciplines to seniors.	\$500 - \$5,000
Artists In Schools	Grants that encourage creative arts education projects in D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) and Public Charter Schools and support the development and implementation of innovative teaching strategies aligned with DCPS Arts Content Standards.	Up to \$2,500
Small Projects Program	Provides funds to individual artists and arts organizations for small-scale arts projects with budgets under \$4,000.	\$2,000

Capital Region Touring	Funds presenters to book performing artists included on the Maryland State Arts Council's artist touring roster.	Up to \$5,000
Cultural Facilities Program	Provides funds to help defray costs related to the improvement, expansion and rehabilitation of existing buildings owned or leased by nonprofit cultural institutions.	\$20,000 - \$100,000
Public Art Building Communities Grants	Funds individuals and nonprofit organizations for the creation and installation of permanent public art projects with a life span of at least five years.	\$1,000 - \$50,000
DC Creates Public Art	Funds the commission or purchase of works of high quality art located in public places throughout the District, including District government buildings, schools, libraries, parks, hospitals and any other sites under direct jurisdiction and stewardship of the District.	Varies by initiative



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ARTIFACT

Did you know ...

Howard University's award-winning newspaper, *The Hilltop*, was co-founded in 1924 by Zora Neale Hurston. Hurston, who helped to pioneer the only black daily collegiate newspaper, is regarded as one of the greatest authors of the 20th century and is a notable figure in our celebration of National Women's History Month.

MISSION

Our Mission at The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities is to provide grants, programs and educational activities that encourage diverse artistic expressions and learning opportunities, so that all District of Columbia residents and visitors can experience the rich culture of our city.



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